

# Mayor's Message

*Wildwood in 2024: A Vision for the Future of Our City*

## Friends and Neighbors:

I hope this message finds you and your family safe and enjoying another beautiful Wildwood spring.

We've accomplished so much since 2016, including the completion of important public works improvements, many with matching federal funding, and we have increased transparency in City meetings to make them more open for all residents.

We have seen significant increases in our property values over the past five years, largely because we remained steadfast in limiting the extent and type of development, supported our schools and children, and targeted improvements to our public works and green spaces. Additionally, our crime statistics are among the lowest in the region.

I'm always considering how I can continue to enhance your Wildwood experience by reviewing the wide range of programs we offer and deciding what to keep, what to suspend or improve upon, and what activities we can add. Central to this process is strategic planning, which we do every five years. The City Council and I are currently in the middle of the strategic planning process. This will be the first plan we've developed together since I became mayor in 2016.



Mayor Jim Bowlin, Ext. 300

With this strategic plan, we will be tackling some major issues and developing line items for implementation along with corresponding target dates. Some will be funded by the City, with additional funding coming from other sources.

There is specific information on the current goals we've developed inside this edition of the *Gazette* (see page 7). Some of the goals focus on the entire City, while others are more defined in their impact and reach. But they all improve our Wildwood community in some way.

I would encourage you to consider our list of goals and let me and your Council Members know what you think. Here are some questions to ask: Where should our priorities be? How should those priorities be funded? Your input is invaluable to our success in this endeavor.

Please consider joining me at one of my monthly coffees on the first Thursday of each month. You can attend in-person at City Hall, or participate virtually at this link: [CityofWildwood.com/coffee](https://www.cityofwildwood.com/coffee).

Please also let me know if you have an idea or concern. You may reach me at [jbowlin@cityofwildwood.com](mailto:jbowlin@cityofwildwood.com), or by phone at (636) 458-0440, ext. 300.

Thanks for your continued support, and for the honor to work for you as your mayor.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jim Bowlin'.

Jim Bowlin  
Mayor